Kashmir Liberation Army

342. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guerilla organizations engaged in the Kashmir Jehad have decided to set up a "Kashmir Liberation Army" to put up a unified struggle against Indian Army to achieve their objectives;

(b) if so, whether the information about formation of the unified Kashmir Liberation Army is correct; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In a bid to bring together various terrorist outfits operating in J&K, ISI is reportedly raising Kashmir Liberation Army under the leadership of one Sayyed Salauddin.

A constant watch is maintained on the situation both at the border as well as in the hinterland and all possible measures are taken to contain militancy in the State and to frustrate the designs of elements hostile to India.

Hiring of American Company for Mapping Andhra Coast

343. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "High-tech passion leads Naidu to yet another controversy" published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 9th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government had objected to hiring of the American firm 'Space Imaging Inc.' by the Andhra Pradesh Government for mapping of 970 km. of Andhra coast using the Icons satellite;

(c) whether State Government needs clearance from any of the Central agencies for allowing/asking private foreign satellite companies to undertake such commercial ventures;

(d) if so, the details thereof in the present case; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing Andhra Pradesh Hazard Mitigation Emergency Cyclone Recovery Project with World Bank assistance, for which GIS data base has to be created by using topographical maps and thematic maps generated using satellite data. Government of Andhra Pradesh permitted Andhra Pradesh State Remote Sensing Application Centre (APSRAC), Hyderabad to procure high resolution satellite data from M/s. Space Imaging Corporation, USA. However the State Government could not open